

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 061990
ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY IO/UNP:JPLORENZ:MR
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S/S:SESTEINER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 061990

EXDIS: FOR AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNSC, EG, IS

SUBJECT: SECURITY COUNCIL: POSSIBLE EARLY MEETING ON
SYG'S REPORT ON MIDDLE EAST CONFERENCE

REF: USUN 804 (NOTAL)

1. UNLESS MEGUID CAN ASSURE US EGYPT WILL WORK FOR A
SIMPLE, PROCEDURAL CONSENSUS IF MEETING IS HELD AT
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END OF MARCH, WE WOULD PREFER TO POSTPONE SC DEBATE
ON SYG'S MIDDLE EAST REPORT UNTIL AFTER ISRAELI
ELECTIONS AND THE APRIL-MAY VISITS OF ARAB LEADERS.
WE SEE LITTLE LIKELIHOOD OF ESCAPING A RESOLUTION OR
CONSENSUS STATEMENT ON WHICH WE WOULD BE ISOLATED IN
OPPOSITION IF THE DEBATE IS HELD THIS MONTH, OR INDEED
AT ANY OTHER TIME. THIS WOULD, OF COURSE, BE AWKWARD

AND UNHELPFUL JUST BEFORE VISITS OF SADAT AND OTHER ARAB LEADERS. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF DEBATE WERE POSTPONED, WE THINK THERE IS SOME CHANCE OF PERSUADING SADAT AND OTHER ARAB LEADERS OF THE POINTLESSNESS OF HOLDING ANY SUBSTANTIVE MIDDLE EAST DEBATES UNTIL LATE MAY AT EARLIEST. (IN THIS CONNECTION, YOU SHOULD TELL WALDHEIM AT SOME APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITY THAT WE DO NOT CONSIDER LATE APRIL A CONVENIENT TIME FOR COUNCIL TO MEET ON COMMITTEE OF 20 REPORT--SEE USUN 782.)

2. WHILE IT MAY BE IMPOSSIBLE TO PUT OFF DEBATE UNTIL LATE MAY, WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO TRY. PLEASE TELL MEGUID THAT IT SEEMS IN THE CLEAR INTEREST OF BOTH EGYPT AND THE US NOT TO PART WAYS JUST BEFORE HIS PRESIDENT ARRIVES. IF MEGUID CAN ASSURE US EGYPT WILL WORK FOR A SIMPLE, PROCEDURAL CONSENSUS, WE WOULD BE AGREEABLE TO CONSIDERING THE SYG'S REPORT DURING THE US PRESIDENCY. IF NOT, WE WOULD MUCH PREFER TO WAIT UNTIL AFTER PRESIDENT SADAT'S VISIT.

3. FYI. SHOULD EGYPTIANS PERSIST, WE HOPE YOU CAN GET THE IDEA ACROSS THAT THEY ARE IN OUR VIEW ACTING VERY MUCH AGAINST THEIR OWN LONG-TERM INTERESTS IN COMPELLING US TO CHOOSE SIDES AT THIS TIME. END FYI.

4. FOR CAIRO: FOR THE MOMENT THIS IS FYI. DEPENDING ON THE OUTCOME OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S DISCUSSION WITH MEGUID, WE MAY HAVE INSTRUCTIONS FOR YOU LATER.

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